New York, 14 Dec. 1841.

My Dear Sir,

I was quite aware, from the time you first desired the parcel returned, that Reynolds had made a mistake about those Chilian specimens, and therefore laid it aside at the Lyceum to be returned to you, which would have been done long ago, if it were not there out of my sight and mind. —— I have just finished Heliantheæ, and hope soon through the worst of Compositæ; which have already cost me (more than a year, constant labor — indeed it is a year and a half since I commenced them), which is a good deal for a person who works at a constant pecuniary sacrifice as I do. But I mean to do it well, at whatever cost. I hope soon to finish the rest of your Compositæ (save us).

Some friends of mine, fearing, and perhaps [illegible] that the Michigan people will not be able to prepare their engagements with me with me to offer myself as a candidate for the Professorship of Botany at Harvard, which they learn is vacant. Although I am not now prepared to do this, yet I would be much obliged to you, if you can give me some information — which I trust you can readily obtain — as to the duties and emoluments of that place — under what terms it was offered to our good friend Torrey — whether lectures on Botany could be introduced as a component part of the instruction in the Medical department, as it is in every medical school in Europe. If you can give me some information in regard to these matters as soon as convenient to yourself, I shall esteem it as a great favor. Will you send the answer note to Mr. Folsom, who as Cor. Sec. of the American Acad., has recently apprised me of my election as Honorary Member of that Soc.,

If you see Mr. Harris, will you ask him if he has received some pamphlets for us, from Mr. Tuckerman — and if so, ask him to send them by Hamden's Express.

I remain

Yours very truly

A. Gray